

North Carolina Zoological Park Funding and Organization Study Committee

March 10, 2010



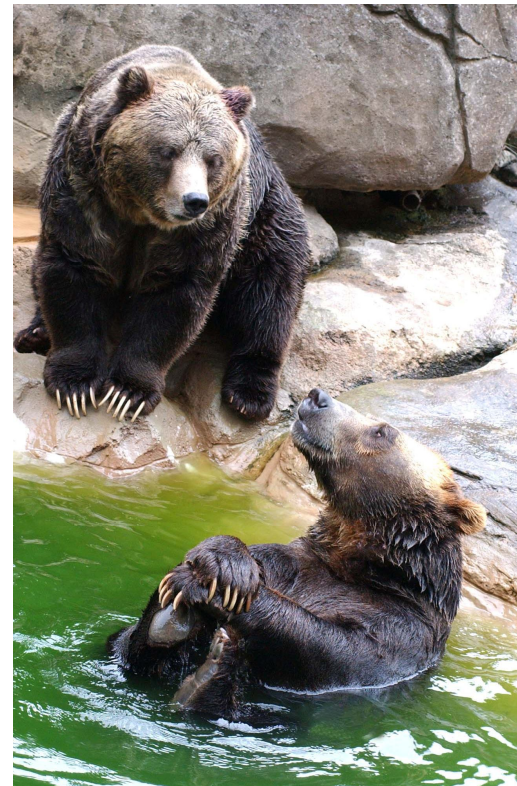
Jennifer L. McGinnis
Committee Counsel

Committee Charge ~

- funding issues, including current and expected capital and operational needs, current sources of revenue, and potential funding mechanisms
- current organizational structure and other potential organizational structures (reorganization as an authority, private nonprofit corporation, etc.)

Overview of Committee Activities 2008-2009

- 3 meetings held on November 6, November 18, and December 9 of 2008
- Report issued
- Proposed legislation approved



Committee's Findings and Recommendations

- **The Zoo should remain a Division within DENR.**
- **The Zoo should be exempt from the provisions of the Umstead Act.**
- **DENR should be given expanded purchase and contract authority on behalf of the Zoo.**
- **DENR should revisit the 15 year old memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Zoological Society.**

Findings and Recommendations con't

- **DENR should be directed to assist the Zoo in negotiations with the Office of Information Technology Services.**
- **The purposes for which the special zoo fund may be used should be modified to include the construction of facilities at the Zoo and debt service and lease payments related to the financing of capital improvements at the Park.**
- **Extension of study until May 2010 to allow for oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the report.**

Legislation



- Committee approved draft legislation to implement many of the findings and recommendations
- Bills introduced in the House and Senate – HB 321 and SB 332
- SB 332 enacted as Session Law 2009-329

Session Law 2009-329

- Created a new law providing the methods by which DENR, on behalf of the Zoo, would be able to purchase goods and services.
- Expanded the Zoo's Umstead Act exemption.
- Required DENR to work with the Zoo on outstanding procurement and contract issues, information technology issues, and any other administrative concerns.
- Required DENR to review the current MOU between DENR and the Society and revise or replace the MOU as necessary.

Session Law 2009-329 con't

- Established this Committee by legislative enactment. The Committee is required to report to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly and the Environmental Review Commission, on or before May 1, 2010, and then terminate on that date**

Questions?



Photos from <http://www.nczoo.org/newsroom/medialibrary.html>